GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1778
ANSWERED ON:15.03.2005
IMPORT OF FISH FROM THAILAND
Manoj Dr. K.S.;Rajendran Shri P.;Veerendra Kumar Shri M.P.

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has got any plan to Import different types of fishes from Thailand under Free Trade Agreement;

(b) if so, the details of the project;

(c) whether the Government has received request from Kerala Government to reconsider this decision; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY(SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN)

(a) & (b): India and Thailand have signed a Framework Agreement for establishing a Free Trade Area (FTA) on 9th October, 2003 in Bangkok. Thailand. The key elements of the Framework Agreement cover FTA in Goods, Services and Investments, and Areas of Economic Cooperation. The Framework Agreement also provides for an Early Harvest Scheme (EHS) under which common items have been agreed for elimination of tariffs on a fast track basis. The implementation on Early Harvest Programme has commenced from 1.9.2004. It includes 4 items of fish and fish products at 6-digit HS Code, viz. Salmon (160411); Sardines, sardinella and brisling or sprats (160413); Mackerel (160415) and Crab (160510).

(c) & (d): Kerala Government has requested for declaring fishery products as sensitive and keeping them out of tariff phasing-out regime while negotiating the FTA for ensuring that the economy of the state and the livelihood of fishermen are adequately protected. This will be kept in view while finalising the sensitive list under the FTA in goods which is presently being negotiated.